

# Introduction to Programming Syllabus

CIS 121 (4 credits)

Spring 2022

---

Instructor: Matt Priem  
E-mail: [matthew.priem@mnsu.edu](mailto:matthew.priem@mnsu.edu)

Office: WH 220  
Office Phone: 507-389-1438

---

Lecture:

Office Hours:   Monday       10:30 – 12:00   2:00 – 4:00  
                  Tuesday       10:30 – 12:00  
                  Wednesday   10:30 – 12:00   1:30 – 3:30  
                  Thursday     10:30 – 12:00

\*Additional office hours by appointment.

---

## Prerequisites:

MATH 112 or MATH 113 or MATH 115 or MATH 121

## Course Description:

This course provides conceptual and logical tools for students planning to major in a computing-based major. Programming in a high-level language such as Python and the development of skills in abstraction, problem-solving, and algorithmic thinking are emphasized.

## Course Materials:

- Subscription to Cengage Unlimited eTextbooks + Online Homework Platforms.  
Note: This already included in course fees, meaning you do not need to purchase any additional course materials for this course. See the MindTap paragraph below to access required material.
- The subscription includes Lambert Fundamentals of Python: First Programs 2e.

## Learning Objectives:

Students will learn to:

- Apply common programming constructs in a high level language.
- Solve a constrained problem using objects.
- Identify relations between propositional logic, sets and counting theory to programming.
- Create a program that accurately simulates a clearly-defined phenomena.

## Course Content:

1. Software Development, Data Types, and Expressions
2. Loops and Selection Statements
3. Strings and Text Files
4. Lists and Dictionaries
5. Design with Functions
6. Simple Graphs
7. Design with Classes

## MindTap:

We will be using MindTap for online assessments. To access MindTap, you will need to create a Cengage account. If you don't have a Cengage account yet, follow the steps below. At the end, it will prompt you to create one.

It is essential that you link your D2L with MindTap by the **First Friday** of the course. To login and/or register an account, click the following links in D2L.

D2L → Materials → Content → MindTap

At this point, it will ask you to either create a Cengage account or login to an existing account.

Note: Creating an account is free, and the access to MindTap is included in your tuition, so you shouldn't need to pay for anything.

## MindTap Policies

- All due dates are in MindTap.
- All assignments are due at **11:59 pm** on their respective due date.
- All assignments must be submitted using MindTap. Assignments submitted via email will be discarded.
- Use Chrome or Firefox. Do not use Safari.

## Course Grade:

The components of your final grade will be as follows:

MindTap Homework	15%
Labs	15%
Attendance & Good Samaritan	10%
In class exams	
Exam 1	10%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Exam 4	20%

Final grades will be based on the percentages shown below. I reserve the right to lower, but not raise these cutoff points. The cutoff points are:

A+: 100%–99%	A: 98%–93%	A–: 92%–90%
B+: 89%–87%	B: 86%–83%	B–: 82%–80%
C+: 79%–77%	C: 76%–73%	C–: 72%–70%
D+: 69%–67%	D: 66%–63%	D–: 62%–60%
	F: 59% or lower	

Students taking this course on a Pass/No Credit basis must maintain a minimum grade of C in order to receive credit for this course.

A grade of incomplete is possible, but only in the case of prolonged absence or other excused emergency in accordance with University and Departmental policy and at the discretion of the instructor. The student must be receiving a passing grade at the time the incomplete is granted, and the missing work must be completed in the time frame agreed upon by both the student and the instructor. Failure to complete the missing work in the agreed upon time frame will result in a zero for the missing work. A grade of incomplete will not be given to a student to avoid a failing grade in the course.

## Grading errors & discrepancies

If you believe an assignment was graded incorrectly, you have a maximum of 3 days to do the following.

1. Send an email to [matthew.priem@mnsu.edu](mailto:matthew.priem@mnsu.edu) informing that you intend to contest a score.
2. Include your section number in the email.
3. Be very specific what you believe is incorrect, and what you believe the correct solution/steps are.
  - Please be aware that scores that are more than 3 days old may not be contested.

## Assignment Policies and Descriptions

- **MindTap assignments**

Homework will be posted in MindTap on a weekly basis, and will have several assignments due on a Friday at 11:59 PM. DO NOT WAIT until Friday to start the assignments. This might feel like an overwhelming amount of homework to do in a single day.

- **Labs**

There will be a lab each Friday. You are required to attend each lab. Special circumstances may arise. If they do please contact me in advance. You are still required to complete the missed lab. Missing more than 3 labs will result in a one letter grade deduction to your overall grade.

- **Exams**

You **MUST** be in class on the days of the exams listed below. Missing the exam will result in a score of zero. Exceptions will be made only in accordance with the College policy and at the discretion of the instructor, **provided arrangements are made in advance**. I realize in the case of extreme emergencies this may not be possible. In that case, I should be contacted as soon as possible. Verification of the emergency **must** be provided.

The dates of the first three exams will be during our regularly scheduled class on

Feb 3                      Mar 3                      Apr 7

The last exam will be during finals week

Thursday May 5 from 10:15–12:15

## Attendance Expectations:

While in class, please be respectful of the classroom environment. I ask that you silence all cell phones and put away all non-need electronic devices during class. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for making up any missed material. The general idea is, anything that would disrupt or interfere with the learning of others is not allowed. Failure to abide by this policy will result in a loss of Good Samaritan points.

## Tutoring Services:

MSU offers free tutoring at the Center for Academic Success located in the basement of Memorial Library (ML 116). Mavcard required. Go to <http://www.mnsu.edu/success> or call 389-1791 for more details.

## Academic Support:

MSU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the Office of Disability Services, (Memorial Library 132, telephone 389-2825, TDD 711) to establish an accommodation plan and then contact me as soon as possible.

## Academic Misconduct:

There is no excuse in this class for representing someone else's work as your own. Cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to Departmental and University Policy. Additionally, any instances of academic misconduct will result in a loss of ALL Good Samaritan points.